

Appln No. 10/807,916
Amdt date November 21, 2006
Reply to Office action of August 28, 2006

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The above identified patent application has been amended and reconsideration and reexamination are hereby requested.

Claims 1 - 6, 8 - 19, and 21 are now in the application. Claim 7 has been cancelled. Claim 20 has been previously cancelled. Claims 1, 8, 17 - 19, and 21 have been amended.

The Examiner has objected to Claim 19 because of an informality. The Applicants have amended Claim 19 to correct the informality as suggested by the Examiner.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 8, 17 - 19, and 21 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicants regard as the invention.

The Applicants have amended Claim 8 to call for (underlining added for emphasis) "... a size in the range of 20 - 100µm." Given a minimal size range, the Applicants submit that Claim 8 is not indefinite.

The Applicants have amended Claim 17 to call for (underlining added for emphasis) ... A grid plate apparatus ... , the grid plate apparatus comprising: a grid plate ...; and a plurality of supports ...; ... wherein the grid plate is adapted to receive a predetermined external voltage applied to the grid plate to direct the electrons beams through respective apertures toward the second substrate, ... Accordingly a grid plate apparatus combining a grid plate and supports as an apparatus entity does not render this claim indefinite. Further, the grid plate being adapted to receive a predetermined external voltage does not require a voltage source to be a claim element, and clearly defines how the grid plate is used to direct the electrons beams through respective apertures toward the second substrate rather than distinguishing a different structure when an external voltage is applied or not applied.

In addition, the Applicants have amended Claims 18, 19, and 21 to call for "... a grid plate apparatus."

Therefore, the Applicants submit that Claims 8, 17 - 19, and 21 particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicants regard as the invention.

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The Examiner has rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11 and 15 - 19 as being anticipated by Fushimi et al. The Examiner has also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 13, 15 and 17 - 21 as being anticipated by Takenaka et al. The Examiner has further rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a): Claim 8 as being unpatentable over Fushimi et al., and Claim 11 as being unpatentable over Takenaka et al. in view of Nakamoto. However, the Examiner has indicated that Claims 2, 5 and 14 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The Applicants have amended Claims 1 and 17 to call for (underlining added for emphasis) "wherein the supports are made of a conducting material." As such, the Applicants submit that Claim 1 is not anticipated by Fushimi et al. and that Claim 17 is not anticipated by Takenaka et al.

Fushimi et al., while providing for grid support members in an electron emitting device, does not describe, teach or suggest supports made of a conducting material. In Fushimi et al. the support members serve as an insulating member. (See column 8, lines 50-56.) In addition, Takenaka et al., while providing for supports, does not describe, teach, or suggest supports made of a conducting material. In Takenaka et al. the supports are made of glass, therefore the supports are not made of a conducting material. (See column 12, lines 1-3.)

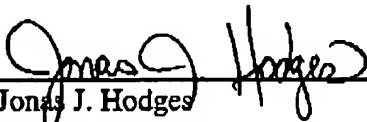
Accordingly, the Applicants submit that Claim 1 is not anticipated by Fushimi et al. under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) or by Takenaka et al. under 35 U.S.C. §102(e).

Claims 2 - 14 are dependent on Claim 1 and Claims 18, 19, and 21 are dependent on Claim 17. As such, these claims are believed allowable based upon Claims 1 and 17.

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Therefore, in view of the above amendment and remarks it is submitted that the claims are patentably distinct over the prior art and that all the rejections to the claims have been overcome. As such, allowance of the above Application is requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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